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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/820,616

04/08/2004

Alan F. Savicki

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THE CLOROX COMPANY
P.O. BOX 24305
OAKLAND, CA 94623-1305

EXAMINER

SMALLEY, JAMES N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3781

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

01/11/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/820,616	Applicant(s) SAVICKI, ALAN F.	
	Examiner James N. Smalley	Art Unit 3781	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/08/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-4, 14-17, 23, 29 and 32-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sherlock US 3,128,005.

Sherlock '005 teaches a thermoplastic container with a rim including an inner wall (8) and an externally-threaded skirt (4), and a closure with an inner wall (10) and an internally-threaded skirt (11). The container inner wall (1) appears to be disposed at an angle of between 95-120 degrees with respect to the horizontal, and a tapered container inner wall of between 5-30 degrees.

Examiner reads an initial loosely-applied condition as the venting position, and the fully threaded position as the seal-effected first position.

3. Claims 1-4, 8-11, 14-17, 19-23 and 25-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morris, Sr. et al. US 6,170,691.

Morris '691 teaches a thermoplastic container with a rim including an inner wall (56) and an externally-threaded skirt (16), and a closure with an inner wall (38) and an internally-threaded skirt (24). The container inner wall (14) appears to be disposed at an angle of between 95-120 degrees with respect to the horizontal, and a tapered container inner wall (38) of between 5-30 degrees.

Examiner reads an initial loosely-applied condition as the venting position, and the fully threaded position as the seal-effected first position.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 3781

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 5-7, 12-13, 18 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morris, Sr. et al. US 6,170,691 as applied above under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), in view of Russell et al. US 6,123,212.

Morris '691 does not teach upwards of eight threads, and furthermore fails to teach tactile indication of a second position in order to vent pressure from the container. However, the reference does acknowledge the container may contain high pressures. It would be desirable to provide a venting feature in order to vent pressure during removal of the container.

Russell '212 teaches threading for a plastic container closure cap, comprising interlocking beads (40) and guide channels (G) on the container neck for stopping the removal of the cap at an intermediate venting stage. The connection appears to be capable of occurring in the closure applying direction as well.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the threads of the closure and container of Morris '691, providing the threaded configuration taught by Russell '212, including the projection (40) and vent grooves (G) on the container neck, motivated by the benefit of providing means to vent pressure from the container before removal.

Regarding claim 7, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the threads of Morris '691, forming them to an angle of inclination of 5-10 degrees, or to any other optimal sloping angle. It has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result-effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: See attached PTO-892 citing relevant references.


Art Unit: 3781

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James N. Smalley whose telephone number is (571) 272-4547. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10 am - 7 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Stashick can be reached on (571) 272-4561. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

jns



ANTHONY D. STASHICK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700